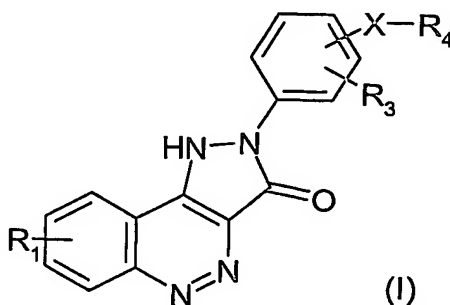


Claims:

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof:



wherein

R_1 and R_3 independently represent H; F; Cl; Br; $-\text{NO}_2$; $-\text{CN}$; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl optionally substituted by F or Cl; or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxy optionally substituted by F;

- 10 R_4 represents a carboxylic acid group ($-\text{COOH}$) or an ester thereof, or $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NR}_6\text{R}_7$, $-\text{NR}_7\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}_6$, $-\text{NR}_7\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OR}_6$, $-\text{NHC}(=\text{O})\text{NR}_7\text{R}_6$ or $-\text{NHC}(=\text{S})\text{NR}_7\text{R}_6$ wherein

R_6 represents H, or a radical of formula $-(\text{Alk})_m\text{-Q}$ wherein

- 15 m is 0 or 1

20 Alk is an optionally substituted divalent straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkylene, or $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ alkenylene, or $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{12}$ alkynylene radical or a divalent $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ carbocyclic radical, any of which radicals may contain one or more $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$ or $-\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-$ links wherein R_8 represents H or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_4$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_4$ alkynyl, or $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkyl, and

25 Q represents H; $-\text{NR}_9\text{R}_{10}$ wherein R_9 and R_{10} independently represents H; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl; $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_4$ alkenyl; $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_4$ alkynyl; $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkyl; an ester group; an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group; or R_9 and R_{10} form a ring when taken

together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, which ring is optionally substituted; and

5 R_7 represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form an optionally substituted monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms; and

10 X represents a bond or a divalent radical of formula $-(Z)_n-(Alk)-$ or $-(Alk)-(Z)_n-$ wherein Z represents $-O-$, $-S-$ or $-NH-$, Alk is as defined in relation to R_6 and n is 0 or 1.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the radical R_4X- is in the 4-position of the phenyl ring.

15 3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein X is a bond.

4. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_3 is hydrogen.

20 5. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_1 is hydrogen or fluoro.

25 6. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_4 represents $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$ wherein R_6 and R_7 are as defined in claim 1.

7. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_4 represents $-NHC(=O)NR_7R_6$ wherein R_6 and R_7 are as defined in claim 1.

30 8. A compound as claimed in claim 7 wherein R_6 is a quinuclidinyl radical.

9. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_6 represents a radical of formula $-(Alk)_m-Q$ wherein m is 1 and the divalent radical Alk contains 3 or 4 carbon atoms and is unsubstituted, and Q

represents $-NR_9R_{10}$ wherein R_9 and R_{10} independently represent H; C_1-C_4 alkyl; C_3-C_4 alkenyl; C_3-C_4 alkynyl; C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl; an ester group; an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group; or form a ring when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, which ring is optionally substituted.

10. A compound as claimed in any of claims 6 to 8 wherein R_7 is hydrogen.

11. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Q represents H; $-CF_3$; $-OH$; $-SH$; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 independently represents H; C_1-C_4 alkyl; C_3-C_4 alkenyl; C_3-C_4 alkynyl; C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl; an ester group; an optionally substituted aryl, aryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocyclic group; or form a ring when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached; and

15 R_7 represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms.

12. A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein R_4 represents a carboxylic acid group ($-COOH$) or an ester group of formula $-COOR$ wherein R is methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl or benzyl.

13. A compound as claimed in claim 11 or claim 12 wherein R_6 represents a radical of formula $-(Alk)_m-Q$ wherein m is 1, Alk is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, or $-CH_2CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, or a divalent cyclopropylene, cyclopentylene or cyclohexylene radical, optionally substituted by OH, oxo, CF_3 , methoxy or ethoxy, and Q represents hydrogen; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 may be the same or different and selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or isopropyl or tert-butyl; a methyl, ethyl or benzyl ester; or an optionally substituted phenyl, phenoxy, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, furyl, thienyl, piperidyl, or piperazinyl group.

14. A compound as claimed in any of claims 11 to 13 wherein R_7 represents methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl; or when taken

together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms;

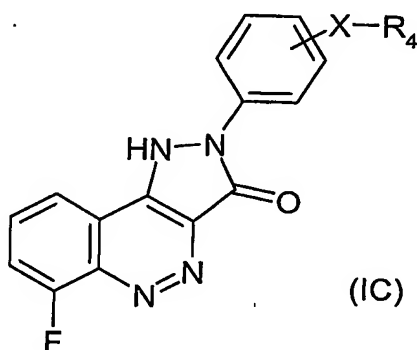
15. A compound as claimed in any of claims 11 to 14 wherein R_1 is H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

16 A compound as claimed in any of claims 11 to 14 wherein R_1 is F, in the 6-position of the 3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]cinnolin-2-yl ring system.

17. A compound as claimed in any of claims 11 to 16 wherein R_3 is H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

18. A compound as claimed in any of claims 11 to 17 wherein X is a bond, or a $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-$ radical.

19. A compound of formula (IC) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof:

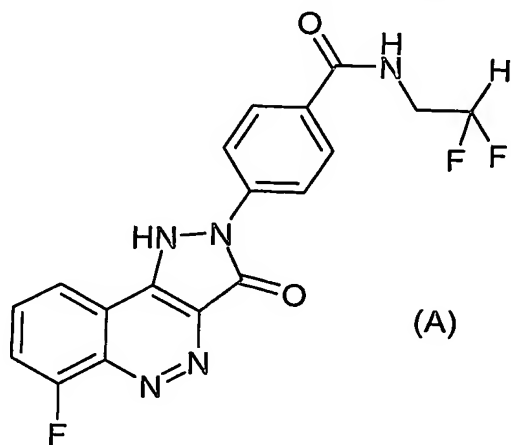


20 wherein X and R_4 are as specified in any of claims 3, 7 to 10 or 11 to 18.

20. A compound as claimed in claim 18 wherein the radical R_4X- is in the 4-position of the phenyl ring.

21. A compound as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20 wherein X is a bond and R_4 is $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$ wherein R_6 and R_7 are as specified in claim 11, or claim 13 or 14 respectively.

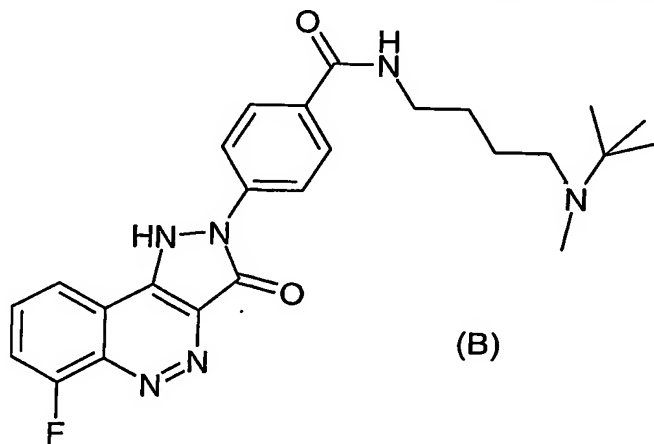
22. The compound 4-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]cinnolin-2-yl)-N-(2,2-difluoro-ethyl)-benzamide, of formula (A)



(A)

5 or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof.

23. The compound N-[3-(tert-butyl-methyl-amino)-butyl]-4-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]cinnolin-2-yl)-benzamide, of formula (B):



(B)

10 or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof.

24. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound as
15 claimed in any of claims 1 to 23 together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable excipient or carrier.

25. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 23 for use in the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

5 26. The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 23 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation,

10 27. A method of immunomodulation in mammals, including humans, comprising administration to a mammal in need of such treatment an immunomodulatory effective dose of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 23.

15 28. A compound for use as claimed in claim 25, the use as claimed in claim 26 or a method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the immunomodulation is immuno-inhibition.

20 29. A compound for use as claimed in claim 25, the use as claimed in claim 26 or a method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the condition is autoimmune disease, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, asthma, transplantation, systemic lupus erythematosus and psoriasis.